

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 (cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for delivering a polysaccharide formulation to a respiratory tract of a mammal~~, comprising:

a mixture comprising a polysaccharide having a molecular weight of between about 50,000 and 1.5×10^6 Daltons at a concentration of less than about 5.0 mg/ml (w/v) of polysaccharide, and a breathable fluorocarbon propellant;

a canister adapted to contain said mixture under pressure;

a valve connected to said canister for regulating delivery of said mixture; and

a nozzle interconnected with said valve for transforming said mixture under pressure into an inhalable aerosol mist when said valve is actuated.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the polysaccharide in said aerosol mist has a median mass distribution size of between about 0.5 to about 10 microns.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the said mixture further comprises a drug.

Claims 34-36 (cancelled).

Claims 37. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 33 wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of terbutaline, albuterol (salbutamol) sulfate, ephedrine sulfate, ephedrine bitartrate, isoetharine hydrochloride, isoetharine mesylate, isoproteranol hydrochloride, isoproteranol sulfate, metaproteranol sulfate, terbutaline sulfate, procaterol, bitolterol mesylate, atropine methyl nitrate, cromolyn sodium, propranolol, fluroisolide, ibuprofin, gentamycin, tobermycin, pentamidine, penicillin, theophylline, bleomycin, etoposide, captopril, n-acetyl cysteine, verapamil, calcitonin, atriopentin, α -1 antitrypsin (protease inhibitor), interferon, vasopressin, insulin, interleukin-2, superoxide dismutase, tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), plasma factor 8, epidermal growth factor, tumor necrosis factor, heparin, lung surfactant protein, and lipocortin.

38. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein the polysaccharide is chemically modified.

39. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 38 wherein the solution further comprises a drug.

40. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 39 wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of prostaglandins, amphotericin B, progesterone, isosorbide dinitrate, testosterone, nitroglycerin, estradiol, doxorubicin, beclomethasone and esters thereof, vitamin E, cortisone, dexamethasone and esters thereof, 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine/1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylglycerol (DPPC/DPPG) phospholipids, and betamethasone valerate.

41. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein a drug is conjugated to the polysaccharide.

42. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein the polysaccharide is a glycosaminoglycan.

43. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 42 wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate A, chondroitin sulfate B, chondroitin sulfate C, heparan sulfate and heparin.

44. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein the polysaccharide is dextran.

45. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein the molecular weight of the polysaccharide is less than about 587,000 Daltons.

46. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 45 wherein the molecular weight of the polysaccharide is less than about 220,000 Daltons.

47. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 46 wherein the molecular weight of the polysaccharide is less than about 150,000 Daltons.